

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00236 280418Z
ACTION EA-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0236
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA. 5.)
DEPT FOR EA/PRCM, CU/EA

STATE PASS USIA/IEA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR GARBLED IN PARA FIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH US SEDUC OEXC
SUBJ: MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIAL

1. SUMMARY: AT OUR REQUEST, HU SHOU-HSIN, DIRECTOR
OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT,
MET WITH USLO OFFICER JAN 25 FOR USLO PRESENTATION
OF USIA PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PRC'S HIGHER
EDUCATION DELEGATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF LETTER AND
MATERIALS FROM HEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERRY. HU WAS
UNCHARACTERISTICALLY FORTHCOMING: HE WELCOMED THE
FURTHER EXCHANGE OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, STATED THAT
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THERE ARE NO PLANS TO REESTABLISH THE MINISTRY OF
HIGHER EDUCATION, AND SAID THERE WILL BE A GREATER
EXCHANGE OF EDUCATORS BETWEEN THE PRC AND THE UNITED
STAES. END SUMMARY.

2. AT USLO'S REQUEST, HU SHOU-HSIN MET WITH USLO
OFFICER NOV 25 FOR PRESENTATION OF USIA PHOTO-

GRAPHS OF THE PRC HIGHER EDUCATION DELEGATION. USLO OFFICER ALSO TRANSMITTED LETTER AND EDUCATION MATERIALS FROM HEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY MARY BERRY. DURING ENSUING CONVERSATION, HU WAS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY FRANK AND SAID THAT HE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OCCASIONALLY WITH USLO OFFICERS. IN PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS WITH USLO OFFICERS, HU HAS BEEN ALMOST HOSTILE, AVOIDING ANY DISCUSSION OF PRC POLICIES ("WE ACT ACCORDING TO CHAIRMAN MAO'S LINE").

3. HU SAID THAT THE PRC WILL BE RECEIVING MORE ACADEMIC DELEGATIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES: "THE MORE, THE BETTER FOR INCREASED UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES." HE SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, HOWEVER, HAS HAD ONLY LIMITED INVOLVEMENT WITH US-PRC EXCHANGES; THIS YEAR BEING ONLY DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH RECEIVING THE ENGINEERING EDUCATION DELEGATION AND LAST YEAR WITH THE STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATION DELEGATION. HU SAID THE MINISTRY HAS NO PLANS TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES THIS YEAR. MOST ACADEMIC DELEGATIONS -- THOSE ORGANIZED BY PARTICULAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES -- ARE HANDLED BY CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE. HE SAID THAT THE INCREASE IN DELEGATIONS WILL BE OUTSIDE THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM. THE EXCHANGES OF STUDENTS CAN COME ONLY AFTER NORMALIZATION ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A FEW AMERICAN STUDENTS IN THE PRC NOW AS A RESULT OF

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PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS. HU IMPLIED THAT THESE "SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS" WOULD CONTINUE. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE KNEW OF AT LEAST ONE CHINESE-AMERICAN WHO WOULD BE COMING TO THE PRC TO TEACH. AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR WILL JOIN HIS FATHER WHO TEACHES AT SHANGHAI'S FUDAN UNIVERSITY AND CONDUCT SEMINARS IN METALLURGY.

4. DURING A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM AND THE REORDERING OF PRC EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES, HU SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS NOW DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN OVERSEEING THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT EXAMS. HE ADDED THAT THE MINISTRY SETS OVERALL POLICY AND SAID THERE ARE NO PLANS TO REESTABLISH THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION. (PEKING UNIVERSITY VICE CHAIRMAN CHOU PEI-YUAN HAD INTIMIDATED TO SEVERAL US VISITORS LAST FALL THAT PRC OFFICIALS WERE CONSIDERING REESTABLISHING THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION.)

5. IN REFERRING TO THE PACKAGE FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERRY, HU SAID HE WOULD WELCOME THE EXCHANGE OF OTHER EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS IN THE FUTURE. WE PLAN TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS AND SEND COPIES OF SOME OF THE ENGLISH

LANGUAGE TEACHING MATERIALS THAT WE HAVE ON HAND.
WOODCOCK

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